

Vocabulary Activity

The Origins of American Government

Content Vocabulary

1. **Directions:** Use this graphic organizer to explain the differences and similarities among these systems of government. Use the terms **unitary system**, **confederal system**, and **federal system** in your answers. Write a complete sentence for each answer.

Unitary System	Confederal System	Federal System

2. **Directions:** Use this graphic organizer to define these concepts of culture.

Concept	Definition
nation	
country	
state	

DIRECTIONS: Read the following sentences and answer the questions.

3. Explain how a **constitutional government** preserves a **social contract**.
4. Explain the relationship between a **political philosophy** and the distribution of power in a government.
5. Explain how **direct democracy** and **representative democracy** are similar and different.
6. Explain how **cash crops** and **plantations** were related to one another in colonial North America.
7. Use the terms **legislature**, **duty**, and **repeal** to explain the actions of the British Parliament and the American colonists regarding the Stamp Act.
8. Who were the **delegates** who attended the First Continental Congress, and what did they do?

Vocabulary Activity (*continued*)

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DIRECTIONS: Read the following sentences. If the **bold** term is used correctly in the sentence, write C in the first blank. If the term is used incorrectly, write I, and then explain in the space provided why the term is not used correctly. Include the **bold** vocabulary term in your explanation.

- _____ 9. A **proclamation** is an official, formal public announcement.
- _____ 10. The term **public policy** refers to rules made by citizens.
- _____ 11. **Natural rights** are basic freedoms people have because they are human beings.
- _____ 12. A **boycott** is a refusal of workers to do their jobs.
- _____ 13. An **infrastructure** is a type of tall building.
- _____ 14. An **authoritarian regime** is a form of government in which one leader or group holds great power and is not accountable to the people.
- _____ 15. An **indentured servant** was a worker who contracted with American colonists for paid passage, food, and shelter in return for labor.
- _____ 16. A **constitution** is the body of government that makes laws.
- _____ 17. A **monarchy** refers to a form of government in which a king or queen has great power.
- _____ 18. **Law** refers to the set of rules and standards by which a society governs itself.

Vocabulary Activity (*continued*)

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DIRECTIONS: In the space before each word in the left column, write the letter of the correct definition.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| _____ 19. oligarchy | a. a government in which citizens hold the power to rule |
| _____ 20. theocracy | b. a representative democracy in which citizens choose their lawmakers |
| _____ 21. democracy | c. a system for making choices about how to use scarce resources and distribute them to meet people's needs and wants |
| _____ 22. precedent | d. a form of government in which a leader or group of leaders exercises complete control over the state |
| _____ 23. republic | e. a commitment to a republican form of government in which citizens choose their lawmakers |
| _____ 24. dictatorship | f. a form of government in which a small group of people holds power |
| _____ 25. dissenter | g. a person who opposes official or commonly held views |
| _____ 26. economy | h. personal freedom |
| _____ 27. liberty | i. a form of government in which religious leaders rule the people |
| _____ 28. Republicanism | j. a judge's ruling that is used as the basis for a judicial decision in a later, similar case |

Academic Vocabulary

DIRECTIONS: From the vocabulary list below, choose the best word to answer each question.

violate, arbitrarily, ideology, establish, benefit

29. Which word means "randomly" or "unreasonably"?
30. Which term means "to found" or "to start something"?
31. Which word means "to go against a law or a rule"?
32. Which term means "to be useful or profitable to"?
33. Which word means "a strict idea about life and society"?
34. Which word means "power or influence over other people"?